

January 23, 1963

Dear Mr. Huxley:

One of your critics has remarked that "Brave New World" must have scared you even more than your readers. Having first been obliged to spend any real thought on the details of the future by the mission of a recent symposium in London, I found myself more deeply frightened by the immediacy of developments in human biology than I could have thought possible. It was impossible to budge in this field without bumping into a Huxley, Julian, Aldous, or T.H.'s shade -- on the whole, I found Aldous's biology the most persuasive. Perhaps I should qualify that, since Revisited lacks the clarity about eugenics that Brave New World inspired. (At least this is the one "advance" that you too put out of mind "for a long time to come"). The dysphenics of thalidomide shows that babies don't have to come out of bottles for the practice of developmental control.

I could not write this paper without thinking how much more effective your own work has been and might be -- and I hope you will recognize and accept the acknowledgments that are implicit in it. You know very well what a muddle science can make. But, however fearful the consequences of physical power, at least human nature has until now been left reasonably constant. The humanism we all seek will be far more elusive when we can no longer delineate the personality we hope to defend.

This letter could only be written by a life-long admirer; if this does not deter you, and some conversation on the theme could interest you, I would be happy to find the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Director

Mr. Aldous Huxley  
~~Los Angeles~~

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A. Huxley